

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 NIAMEY 00439 031207Z

43

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 IGA-02 ACDA-05 AID-05 OMB-01

TRSE-00 L-03 /068 W

----- 025475

R 031120Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2773

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L NIAMEY 0439

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, PFOR, NG

SUBJECT: REGIONAL ARMS RESTRAINTS STUDY

REF: STATE 20621

1. FOLLOWING OBSERVATIONS FROM PERSPECTIVE OF NIGER  
MAY BE OF USE AS AF CONSIDERRS OUTLINES OF ARMS CONTROL  
STUDY.

2. NIGER'S ARMED FORCES LIKE MOST OTHER IN THIS  
PART OF THE WORLD SERVE MORE A POLICE AND INTERNAL  
SECURITY FUNCTION AND HAVE NO OFFENSIVE CAPABILITY  
OR MISSION.

3. ALTHOUGH SOLDIERS ARE IN CHARGE, THERE  
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PAGE 02 NIAMEY 00439 031207Z

IS NO INTERNAL PRESSURE FROM ARMY OR ELSEWHERE

PUSHING GOVERNMENT IN DIRECTION OF MAJOR ARMS ACQUISITIONS. SUCH ARMS AS DO COME IN ARE NORMALLY FOR UPGRADING AND REPLACEMENT. FRANCE IS VIRTUALLY SOLE SOURCE, PROVIDING ALSO SOME 65 TECHNICAL ADVISORS TO ARMY.: FRG ALSO FURNISHES SOME ADVISORS AND EQUIPMENT IN AREA OF AIR TRANSPORT AND LOGISTICS.

4. NIGER ECHOES STANDARD REFRAINS IN INTERNATIONAL FORMS ABOUT PERNICIOUS EFFECTS OF "ARMIES RACES" BUT SHOWS NO PRECEPTIBLE CONCERN ABOUT ARMS AND MILITARY EQUIPMENT PURCHASE BY OR GIVEN TO INDEPENDENT COUNTRIES OF AFRICA. THE "MILITARY BALANCE" IN REGION IS JUST NOT A TOPIC OF MUCH INTEREST HERE EVEN THOUGH THERE ARE LARGE AND GROWING DISPARITIES BETWEEN NIGERIAL AND ALGERIA ON ONE SIDE AND NIGER AND ITS POORER NEIGHBORS ON THE OTHER. GON IS WORRIED ABOUT ITS EXTENSIVE UNDEMARCATED BORDERS ALONG SOME OF WHICH THERE MAY BE MINERALS WHICH COULD LEAD TO FUTURE CONTROVERSIES. HOWEVER LACKING MEANS TO ESTABLISH AND DEFEND THESE BORDERS GON IS RESORTING TO DIPLOMATIC MEANS TO CONTAIN PROBLEM BY URGING ADOPTION OF APPROPRIATE MACHINERY BY OAU.

5. WE DOUBT THAT GON WOULD SHOW MUCH INTEREST IN ARRANGEMENTS TO CUT DOWN FLOW OF ARMS INTO THIS PART OF AFRICA UNLESS INITIATED BY AFRICANS THEMSELVES THROUGH CHANNELS SUCH AS OUA.

6. LEVELS OR CEILINGS THAT MIGHT EVENTUALLY BE SET BY AGREEMENTS WOULD IN ANY CASE PROBABLY BE TOO HIGH TO HAVE ANY MEANINGFUL EFFECT ON MODEST FLOWS OF ARMS COMING INTO NIGER.

7. WHILE IT GOES ALMOST WITHOUT SAYING THAT US APPROACHES WOULD HAVE TO BE UNDERTAKEN IN CONJUNCTION WITH FRENCH AND OTHER EUROPEAN SUPPLIERS, WE WONDER WHETHER PARIS HAS MUCH USEFUL LEVERAGE ON THIS ISSUE. WITH CLOSING OF FRENCH BASE IN NIGER IN 1974 MILITARY ASSISTANCE PLAYS RELATIVELY SMALL ROLE IN OVERALL FRENCH-NIGERIAN RELATIONS AND MAY BE VIEWED IN PARIS LESS AS OF A SOURCE OF INFLUENCE THAN AS ELEMENT CONTRIBUTORY TO FRANCE'S ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL INTERESTS IN NIGER. HECK  
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PAGE 03 NIAMEY 00439 031207Z

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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